

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5800

ANSWERED ON:29.04.2015

VIKASPEDIA

Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar;Suresh Shri Doddaalahalli Kempegowda

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched Vikaspedia project;
- (b) if so, the details along with the objectives thereof;
- (c) the targets set under the project and funds allocated for the same; and
- (d) the achievements, if any, made so far under the project?

Answer

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The administrative approval for the project was accorded on 11.03.2013. The project aims to make available information in all 22 official languages. Its objective is to provide e-knowledge and using ICT-based applications in regional languages for societal empowerment.

(c): The main targets are as under:

i. Provide ICT-based information and knowledge in 22 official languages covering domains namely Agriculture, Health, Education, Social Welfare, Energy and E-Governance.

ii. Maximize the benefits of ongoing Mission Mode Projects to common people.

iii. Reach-out to 100 lakh poor across the country directly or through service providers, on demand and in time through ICT-based information and knowledge.

iv. Build capacities and skills of 1,00,000 service providers

A total budget of Rs. 2243.74 lakhs as Grant in aid for a period of 5 years has been allocated.

(d): Vikaspedia, a multilingual, multi-sectoral crowd sourcing knowledge platform, has so far been made available in 10 languages. Development of the portal is ready in 4 more languages namely Sanskrit, Urdu, Punjabi and Oriya and this would be launched in May, 2015. The portal provides information, products and services covering 6 key livelihood sectors that are relevant to the underserved communities. The portal currently records about 10 million hits per month.

Applications like MOTHER, Ask an Expert, Dynamic Market information and mobile apps have been rolled out as part of ongoing government programmes to maximize their benefits to the common people.